JUNE 2024

Rock Talk

The Official Newsletter of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Pearls

What are pearls? In the world of gems, pearls are unique. Unlike other gemstones, such as moonstone or emeralds, pearls form inside a living creature and are a true miracle of nature.

Pearls have been valued by human beings for thousands of years, with mentions of this precious gemstone appearing in the Bible and ancient Roman text. Pearls also had religious significance in ancient China, and are believed to have been associated with the moon and protection against dragons.

Today, the pearl is associated with both innocence and inner strength and is the birthstone for the month of June. Pearls are easier to come by these days than even a few hundred years ago, yet that hasn't diminished their importance. They are still highly valued and sought after among lovers of fine gemstones.

This Month's Roundup of Stories

- Pearls
- Secretary's Report
- Carnelian
- Hogg Mine
- Auralite-23
- Lucky Stones
- Bench Tips

June's Birthstone - Pearls

Pearls were once found only inside mussels living in the wild, in lakes, rivers, and oceans. Until the late 1800s, pearls could only be harvested by divers, who had to gather thousands of mussels to find even one pearl among them.

As a result, pearls were extremely rare and prohibitively expensive. But the advent of perliculture—the cultivation of pearls— was first perfected in Japan, making the pearl accessible to millions of people all around the world.

Today, the vast majority of pearls in the marketplace are cultured, meaning they were harvested on pearl farms. Most of these farms are located in the Far East, with China serving as home to the greatest number of pearl farms in the world.

The mussels that produce pearls can be found in both fresh and saltwater, depending on the species. Pearl farms using saltwater are located in coves or bays, while freshwater mussels for pearls are kept in ponds or former rice paddies.

Read the entire article at *RockNGem.com*

Secretary's Report

Minutes and More from Club Secretary - Melodye Steverson

Apologies to all in the club, but your Secretary and your VP were out of town the night of the May meeting, so there will be no minutes for this newsletter.
Minutes will be back in next month's newsletter.

Cherry Quartz

Cherry Quartz is a man-made gemstone that mimics the appearance of natural quartz, specifically the coloration of cherry blossoms. It's a type of glass made by melting natural quartz crystals with various coloring agents.
The result is a stunning pinkish-red gemstone with streaks of white or clear quartz, resembling the delicate beauty of cherry blossoms.
Compositionally, Cherry Quartz primarily consists of silicon dioxide (SiO_2), just like natural quartz. However, it also contains additives that give it its distinctive coloration. These additives can include elements like iron oxide, titanium, or other minerals depending on the desired hue and clarity.
Cherry Quartz is a relatively recent addition to the world of gemstones compared to naturally occurring minerals like amethyst or citrine. Its creation emerged as a response to the growing demand for vibrant and affordable gemstones in jewelry making.
The process of creating Cherry Quartz involves melting natural quartz crystals and infusing them with coloring agents. While the exact origins and timeline of its development are not extensively documented, it's believed to have gained popularity in the late 20th century as advancements in glassmaking technology allowed for more intricate and realistic gemstone imitations.
Read the entire article at *GeologyScience.com*

Clubhouse Address:
3357 Susan Dr.
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Carnelian

Carnelian agate is a form of chalcedony, characterized by its reddish-orange to deep orange hue.
It is composed primarily of silicon dioxide (SiO_2), the chemical compound that forms quartz.
The distinctive coloration of carnelian agate is due to the presence of iron oxide impurities.

Carnelian agate, like other varieties of chalcedony, primarily consists of silicon dioxide (SiO_2), which is the chemical composition of quartz. However, what distinguishes carnelian agate from other forms of chalcedony is the presence of certain impurities that give it its distinctive coloration.
The vibrant reddish-orange to deep orange hues of carnelian agate are primarily attributed to the presence of iron oxide impurities within the silica structure. These impurities can vary in concentration, which leads to the range of colors observed in different specimens of carnelian agate.

In addition to iron oxide, carnelian agate may also contain trace amounts of other elements and minerals, such as manganese, which can influence its color and appearance. However, the dominant factor in determining the color of carnelian agate remains the presence of iron oxide.

Overall, the composition of carnelian agate is primarily silicon dioxide with varying concentrations of iron oxide and other trace impurities, which collectively contribute to its unique color and beauty.

Carnelian agate has been valued for its beauty and perceived metaphysical properties for thousands of years, leading to a wide range of applications and uses. Some of the key applications and uses of carnelian agate include:

1. Jewelry: Carnelian agate is commonly used in jewelry, where it is fashioned into beads, cabochons, pendants, earrings, rings, and other ornamental pieces. Its vibrant colors and attractive banding patterns make it a popular choice for both traditional and contemporary jewelry designs.
2. Decorative Objects: Carnelian agate's rich colors and unique patterns make it a favored material for decorative objects such as carvings, figurines, bowls, vases, and ornamental items. Its beauty adds aesthetic appeal to interior décor and art pieces.

Read the article at GeologyScience.com

HUNTER & DIANE AND THE ADVENTURES AT THE HOGG MINE

At the Withlacoochee Rockhounds meeting on June 10, 2024, club Board member Hunter Mellring and his wife Diane will be giving us a presentation of their trip to Hogg Mine in Georgia.
Hunter will be showing video he recorded while they were at the mine, and willalso have specimens on hand for you to inspect.
Be sure to be there!

Auralite-23

Auralite-23 is a type of crystal primarily composed of amethyst with numerous additional minerals and trace elements embedded within it. The "23" in its name refers to the 23 different minerals believed to be present in its composition. These minerals include titanite, cacoxenite, lepidocrocite, hematite, magnetite, pyrite, goethite, pyrolusite, gold, silver, platinum, nickel, copper, iron, limonite, sphalerite, covellite, chalcopyrite, gialite, epidote, bornite, rutile, and rutile inclusions.

Auralite-23 is believed to have formed over 1.2 billion years ago in the Canadian Shield, specifically in the Boreal Forest region of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.
This region is known for its rich geological diversity and is home to various types of minerals and crystals.

The discovery of Auralite-23 is often credited to the Aboriginal people of the region who have long revered the crystal for its purported healing and spiritual properties. However, it gained wider recognition in the late 20th century when it was discovered by a Canadian prospector named Melody, who named it "Auralite" after the metaphysical properties she sensed from the crystal.

Auralite-23's discovery has sparked interest among crystal enthusiasts and metaphysical practitioners due to its purported ability to enhance spiritual growth, promote healing on multiple levels, and facilitate higher consciousness. It is often used in meditation, energy work, and spiritual practices.

Overall, Auralite-23 represents a unique and intriguing addition to the world of crystals, blending geological history with metaphysical significance. However, it's important to note that while many people attest to its beneficial properties, scientific evidence supporting its metaphysical claims is lacking, and its use should be approached with an open but discerning mind.

It's important to note that while many people believe in the metaphysical properties of Auralite-23 and find it beneficial for various purposes, scientific evidence supporting these claims is limited.
As with any alternative healing practice, individual experiences may vary, and it's essential to approach the use of Auralite-23 with an open mind and a healthy dose of skepticism.

Read the article at *GeologyScience.com*

What Are Lucky Stones?

What are lucky stones?
The list of traditional good luck charms is as long and diverse as the list of people who carry them. Think rabbit's feet, lucky pennies and horseshoes hanging above a door.
The stories of people relying on good luck charms or talismans go back centuries, but you don't need to look that far. There's a tennis player with a lucky shirt, another with lucky shower sandals, and a basketball player with lucky shorts.
Don't have a good luck charm yet? No problem. If you like rocks, you're in the right spot. Many are believed to bring good luck. What are lucky stones? Here's a look at some of those good luck rocks and how to prepare and use them.

What is Luck?
You're invited to a party. There are a lot of people there you don't know and you strike up a conversation with one of them. This person asks you about your work and you share with them the idea you have for the business you want to start. It turns out this random person is a wealthy random person; a wealthy person who is now interested in investing in your business. Is that luck?
Some would argue that luck has nothing to do with it. They argue the investor is interested because you have a good idea and know how to present it. Others will argue that it was lucky that you spoke with someone with money to invest. After all, you could have just as easily spoken with someone who wants to borrow money. It's impossible to prove either viewpoint. For now, we are going to assume luck does exist but sometimes it might need a helping hand.

Different types of stones are believed to bring luck in different areas of life. Perhaps you are seeking good luck in a financial venture. Maybe you're planning a trip and want good luck with safe travel. Perhaps you're starting a new relationship and you want to be lucky in love. Or maybe you've been lucky in love and now you want to start a family.
The type of luck you seek will dictate the stone best suited to assist you. There may also be times when using more than one type of stone will be beneficial and increase your chances.
First, let's look at five stones believed to bring good luck. Then we'll look at a few ways to use more than one type of rock so you can dial in the luck you seek.
1. Amazonite
Some refer to amazonite as the "gambler's stone" because of a belief in the stone's ability to bring good luck in games of chance or when starting a new venture.

Read the entire article at *RocknGem.com*

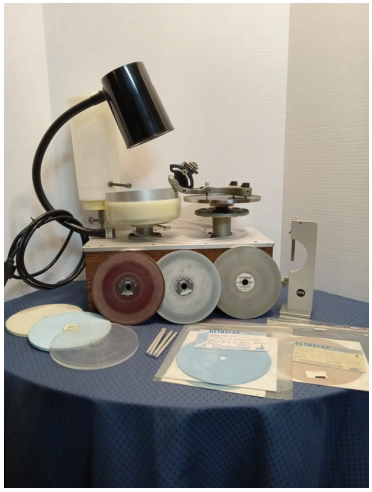
Field Trips

"Note: The Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club does not sponsor field trips other than trips that are sanctioned by the SFMS (The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies).

Our club insurance is through SFMS and does not cover excursions not listed on their website as safe."

Some items for sale by club members.
All items are local pick up only. No shipping.

Melodye has a new, in-box Hi-Tech 6" rock trim saw for sale.
$400
407.760.4472
SOLD



Melodye has a lovingly restored RayTech faceting machine for sale.
Works great.
$900
(These normally sell for upwards of $3000)
407.760.4472
SOLD

MIchelle has some marble for sale.
$25 for all the pieces.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Our monthly club meeting is held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in Rock Talk is $10.00 per month. Contact Michael Steverson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and the club website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the *Rock Talk* and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the *Rock Talk* and our website have more exposure than only club members

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
or send to: Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earrth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, and workshops. PLUS, our annual gem, mineral and jewelry show.

Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are $35.00 annually for adults, and $5.00 for children under 18 years of age.

Club Meeting Location and Time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3375 Susan Dr in Spring Hill. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM

2024 Club Officers and Appointees

President	Anthony Maffatone	352.397.7694	anthonymaffatone@gmail.com
Vice President	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Secretary	Melodye Steverson	352.683.9496	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editor	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Club Webmaster	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Mailing Reporter	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Audio/Visual Coordinator	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com

Anthony Maffatone (President) Michael Steverson (Vice President) Melodye Steverson (Secretary) Janet Wheeler (Treasurer)
Hunter Mellring Leslie Newberry Roger Wheeler James Roush (Appointed) Ralph Barber (Past President)

Bench Tips from Brad Smith

Brad Smith's *Bench Tips* are a monthly feature of Rock Talk

MAGNETIC TOOL BAR

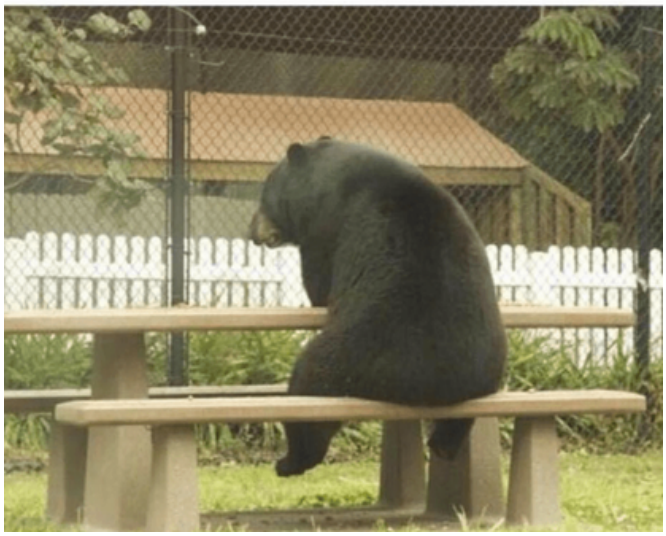
An easy way to keep all your files organized at the bench is to use a magnetic tool strip.
They're not expensive and help keep a lot of small tools from cluttering the bench top.
I got a couple of them from Harbor Freight for about $5 each.
See MAGNETIC TOOL BAR

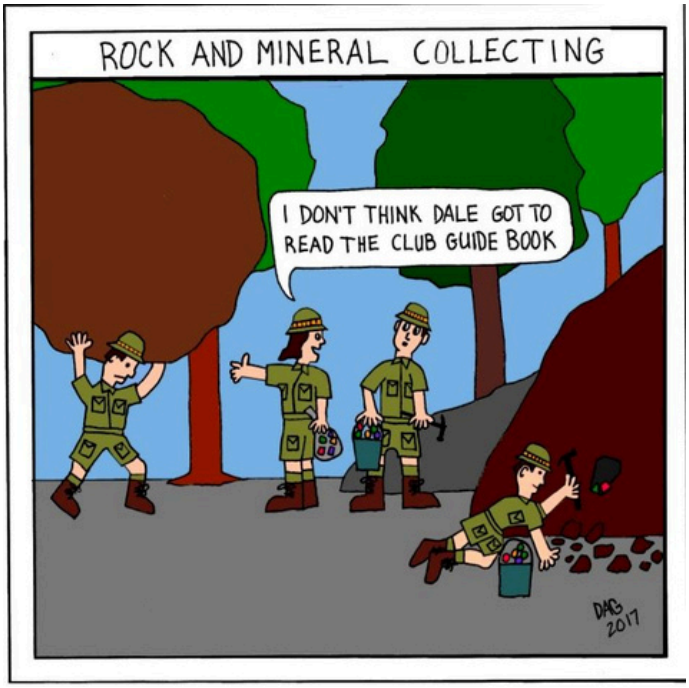
My only regret was putting some of my small drills on the magnets.
The drills got a little magnetized and now stick together when I carry them in a bottle in my tool box.

Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books
Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

Rock Talk Funny Papers

When you're at the family cookout and no one wants to talk about your rock collection.





From The Editor

Hello to all Withlacoochee Rockhounds

It is I, your friendly neighborhood editor again.

For our May meeting, former club Vice President Mark Moore gave his presentation on Hellcreek Fossils. Everyone loved the presentation. Just like the last time Mark did this demo, we had to tell members "Hey, it's almost 10PM, we need to close up now". Thanks, Mark!

For our June meeting, Board member Hunter Mellring and his wife Diane will be giving us a presentation of their trip to Hogg Mine in Georgia. Hunter will be bringing specimens from the trip and will also be showing video he recorded while there. Be sure to be at our meeting to see this.

Membership for the new year is due. If you have not renewed your club membership, please do so. You can renew at the meeting (we take cash, checks, and credit cards), or mail your renewal application in. The revised application is at the end of this newsletter. If you have not renewed your membership by the end of the month, you will not be able to vote, attend club classes, etc., because you are not an active member anymore. So, please renew!

If you would like to place a business card ad in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me, and we'll get you added to the next available issue.

Additionally, if any of you have not received your newsletter or are not receiving my e-mail blasts (meetings, rock sales, etc.), *please* check your spam folder. If you are still not receiving them, please contact me, and let's make sure I have your correct e-mail address.

Our Board would like our members to come up with suggestions for programs to be presented at our monthly meetings. What would you like to see? What would you like to learn? What would you like to know? Is there something you'd like to teach or present? You can help our club expand its educational repertoire. We'd love to hear from you all.

Contact any Board member or bring your written suggestions to a meeting.

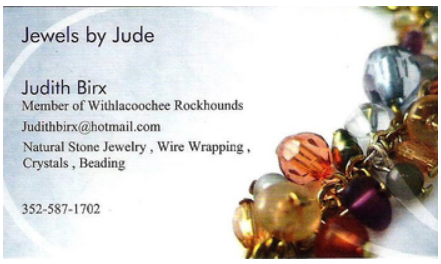
Rock On!!!

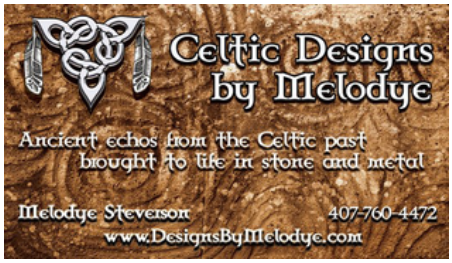
Club Phone Number - 352.587.2714

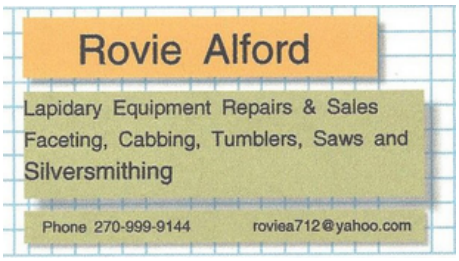
Warning to Withlacoochee Rockhound Members

During the last several months, illicit requests have been sent to members of various clubs in the US, including the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, asking members to purchase gift cards that would be used as donations to various organizations.
These are SCAMS.
Be advised that our club has never and will never ask members to buy gift cards or provide any form of monitary funds to anyone or any organization by phone call, email, or any other method of communication.

Rockhounds Advertisers







Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

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Contact Michael Steverson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and the club website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

If your ad has a web address, or Etsy shop address, I have linked to it.

Advertisers Are Needed
Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website.
The monthly income from these ads is beneficial to the club.
Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members.
Contact club treasurer Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or send to:
Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Membership Form - 2024

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
Hernando County FL

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Full Name _____

Partner's Full Name _____
* If both applying for membership

Child's Full Name _____
* If under 18, and applying with parent

Street Address _____

City _____

State / ZIP _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Annual Membership Dues:

*Choose your type of membership

- ☐ Individual Membership $35.00/ea
- ☐ Individual Membership $35.00/ea
- ☐ Under 18 Membership $5.00/ea
- ☐ Under 18 Membership $5.00/ea

☐ Returning Member?

☐ New Member?

If you are applying, for example, as husband, wife and child (under 18), then fill in full name, partner's name and child's name above. Then, choose two individual memberships to the left, along with an under 18 membership.

Give this completed form, along with your check (made payable to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds") or credit card for dues to Club Secretary Janet Wheeler at a club meeting. Or, you may mail the form to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634